Memorials / Home DRAWER 13A JOHN WILKES BOOTH

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The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

John Wilkes Booth Memorial and Home

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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PINK PARKER'S MEMORIAL.

How a Hate is Perpetuated and An Assassin Glorified.

The picture below appeared in the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times of March 22, 1915, with the following legend accompanying it:.

"Remarkable monument, the fruit of still more remarkable will provision:

"The unique monument shown here was erected by a wealthy Southerner, of Troy, Ala., and stands in a prominent place in that town. It bears the inscription, 'Erected by Pink Parker in honor of John Wilkes Booth, for killing old Abe Lincoln.' When Pink Parker died he left a fund for the care of the monument, with the provision that if it was defaced it must be repaired, and, if destroyed, to be replaced each time by one twice the size of the former one."

The picture and legend were sent to The National Tribune by some veterans of Pittsburgh, with the following comment:

"The existence of this monument is news to quite a number of comrades here who are curious to know more about it than is related on the clipping. We would like to know who Pink Parker was? The year of his death? The year the monument was erected, and any other information you can give relative to the matter.

"The names on the monument match well together. The first, commemorative of the wretched vindictiveness of Pink Parker; the other, the unpardonable act of John Wilkes Booth."

A letter of inquiry sent to Troy, Ala., brought the following information:

"Mr. Pink Parker is still living in Troy, Ala. He is a Confederate veteran, and has but very little property. The monument is in very good condition. On the anniversary of Mr. Lincoln's death, Mr. Pink Parker wears a button which bears the inscription: 'Sacred to the memory of John Wilkes Booth.'"

And there you have the whole wicked story. Pink Parker is not rich, and he is not dead. He is a living example of that most wretched of all men, a man without a country, who exists only to execrate the Flag and all that has made the Nation great and prosperous. Poor, probably ignorant and illiterate—for one cannot imagine an intelligent, educated man living for 50 years in the atmosphere of rebellion which seems to envelop Pink Parker—he stays on earth simply to oppose and obstruct advance, prosperity, and peace, all of which are essentially typified in the Flag and the Union, things that Mr. Pink Parker hates.

Nat. Tribune, 1915

Brooklyn Daily Eagle

SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 5, 1921.

AN ASSASSIN'S MONUMENT.

Mrs. C. D. Brooks, president of the Woman's League of Republican Voters in Alabama, has issued a call to good citizens, whatever their party affiliations, to join with the League in plans to remove the monument to John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of Abraham Lincoln, which is still standing in Troy, Alabama, where there is also a State Normal School. This was erected by popular subscription in 1866. The sentiment that condoned the political murder of the most lovable man in history is a curious thing to study after the lapse of more than half a century. The whole South of today honors Lincoln's memory. There are no pilgrims to the grave of John Wilkes Booth or to his monument.

Yet the temporary existence of the sentiment that led to the erection of this monument is not surprising. Booth's crime in Ford's Theater, April 14, 1865, was concededly not actuated by personal hate, or by any motive save the hysterical passions of a hysterical, bad actor. And the long conspiracy trials by court-martial that followed the crime and Booth's death as a hunted fugitive on April 26, trials in which Jefferson Davis, the former President of the Confederacy, was at first named as a factor in the plot, and which in the judgment of some Northern lawyers as well as Southerners resulted in the "judicial murder" of Mrs. Surrat, were calculated to inspire a certain tolerance for what Booth had done, at least in certain sections of the Colton States.

The Ford's Theater tragedy hung for many years like a pall upon the spirits of the assassin's brother, whom all America knew and admired, Edwin Booth. We may assume that Edwin Booth never saw the monument at Troy, Ala., and that he was deeply shocked when he learned of its erection. Historians have long realized how much the South lost by the killing of Lincoln, the one man who might have made reconstruction possible on lines at once broad and humane. So Mrs. Brooks's plea is reasonable. Troy should remove the Booth monument. It is the only monument to the memory of an assassin that stands on American soil.

'AN ASSASSSIN'S MONUMENT'

The Wilkes Booth Memorial in Troy, Ala.

Editor Brooklyn Daily Eagle:

An article appearing in your paper of recent date, and which was reproduced in many papers of this section, headed "An Assassin's Monument," has come to the notice of the writer We regret very much that this article appeared in your paper because of the fact that the true facts in the case were not given. However, this is not the first time our city has been given undue publicity regarding this monument. Several years ago the St. Louis Post-Dispatch gave a full page writeup of it.

I will state the facts in the case for your information and trust you will see fit to clear up the matter as the people of our city do not appreciate the publicity we are getting out of this thing.

The monument, a very small one, something similar to a small headstone we have all seen in small cemeteries, bears the inscription "erected by Pink Parker in memory of John Wilkes Booth for the killing of old Abe Lincoln." The little stone was set up in the front yard of this old man, and we want it thoroughly understood that it was erected by Mr. Parker himself and paid for with his own money. He says himself that not one penny was contributed or solicited.

Some few months ago, this old man almost lost his eyesight and moved to another State to make his home with his son. Upon leaving, he disposed of his property here. Before he sold his property, however, a wind storm visited our city and blew the stone down. The new owner of the property has never re-erected the stone and will not. And now the stone lies flat with the inscription buried in the ground and is not noticeable from the street.

The people of this town did not approve of the erection of such a monument when it was set up some 15 years ago. It was seen by very few people, as the old man's home was not on a principal street, and the people of this city now really are glad that the monument no longer stands.

We are making the facts known to you simply because we do not care for the publicity we are getting about this matter and now that we have stated the facts to you we believe you will be fair enough to the people of this section to so state the facts in your excellent paper.

We have reproduced your article in our paper with our comment and also given notice that in case we could have the facts published in your paper we would also reproduce it in our paper.

If you care to do your Southern friends this favor, kindly mail a copy of your paper to this office that we may pass on to our readers the correction of a mistake that does a gross injustice to the citizenship of our little city.

B. G. McCALMAN,
Editor Troy, Ala., Herald.
Troy, Ala., June 9, 1921.

Wednesday, July 13. 1921

WOULD DESTROY MONUMENT

Troy, Alabama, Table Honors Booth For Murdering Lincoln.

(By the Associated Press.)

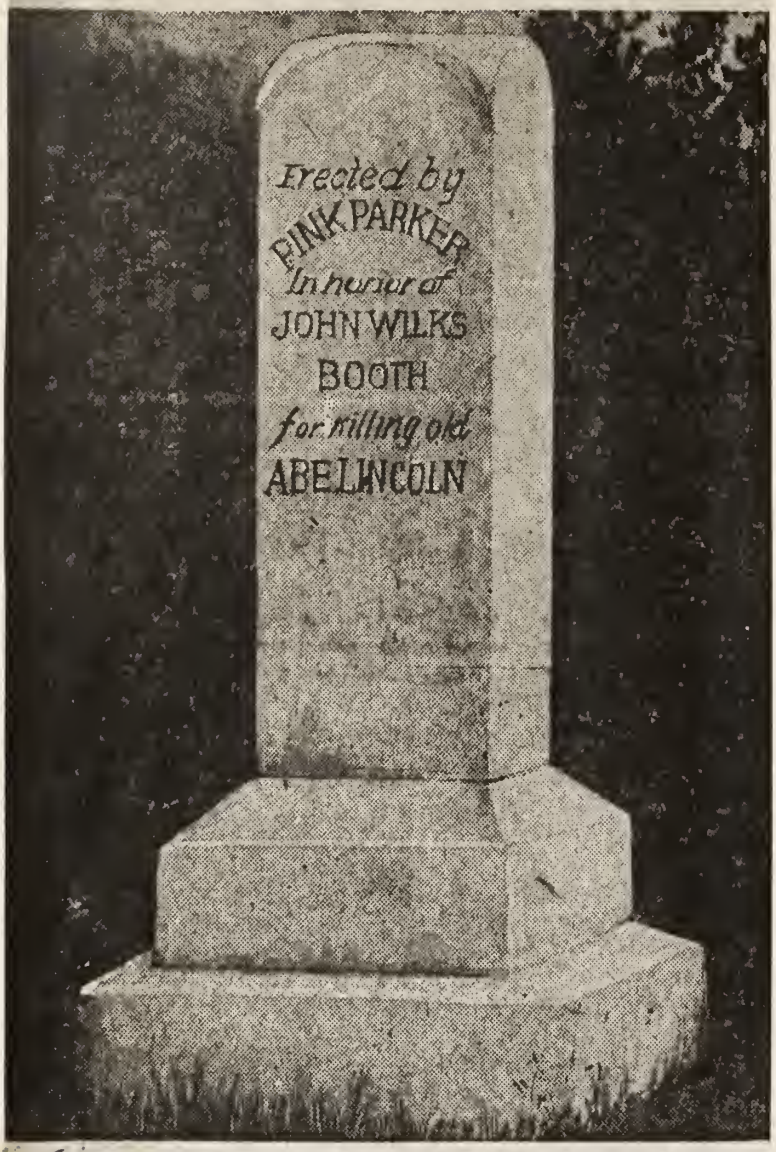
Lincoln, Neb., July 13.—Pelham A. Barrows, national commander of the Sons of Veterans, yesterday forwarded a letter to President Harding asking that he order the destruction of a monument, reported to be in Troy, Ala., which contains an inscription honoring Wilkes Booth for the murder of Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Barrow's stated that this was in accordance with resolutions passed by a number of veterans' posts.

Already Removed.

Troy, Ala., July 13.—A monument erected here in the sixties to the memory of John Wilkes Booth was removed a few days ago by order of the Town Council. It was purchased by Pink Carter, a policeman, who made an effort to erect it on Courthouse Square was denied permission and then placed it on his own premises, whence it was removed [illegible]

Erected by
PINK PARKER
In honor of
JOHN WILKS
BOOTH
for killing old
ABE LINCOLN

Glorifies Lincoln's Assassin



The monument pictured above until recently stood in a prominent place for many years at Troy, Ala., until public sentiment caused the Town Council to order its removal from the front yard to the barn of Pink Parker, a yet "unreconstructed rebel," who paid for its erection originally and had it set up. The inscription reads: "Erected by Pink Parker in Honor of John Wilks Booth for Killing Old Abe Lincoln."

(Courtesy of National Tribune, Washington, D. C.)

1921

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A VIEW THAT LINKS THE MEMORIAL WITH THE TAJ MAHAL.

Mirrored in the pool the Lincoln Memorial has such beauty that only the famous Indian shrine is suggested as a compeer.

THE BOOTH STATUE HAS DISAPPEARED

7 23 1521

Lost, strayed or stolen: the monument erected by Pink Parker at Troy, Ala., to John Wilkes Booth, because "he killed old Abe Lincoln." The memorial to Lincoln's assassin, which stood four feet high, including the base, until it fell over within Parker's own door yard, has mysteriously disappeared, and will probably never be seen again. Whether it has been buried in the ground, sunk in a stream, or pounded into fragments, is not revealed. Suffice it to say that the mayor of Troy, who received five hundred letters about the monument following the printing of a story about it in The National Republican, and the printing of a demand in the Troy Messenger that it be "removed or destroyed," reports that it has been, in some way he is unable to describe, eliminated. Mayor Folmar further states, in a letter to Mrs. Cal. D. Brooks, president of the Woman's Republican League of Alabama, Birmingham, that the people of Troy are ashamed that the monument was ever erected or permitted to stand.

The monument to Booth stood in Parker's yard for some years. Two or three years ago it fell over and has since lain upon the ground. It has now disappeared from view forever, with a complete disavowal of responsibility or sympathy with it by the people of Troy. Parker, the man who erected the monument, is still living, but is no longer a resident of the city.

The following dispatch from Troy to the Montgomery Advertiser recently appeared:

"Troy is now rejoicing over the removal of the little monument, which has brought so much unpleasant notoriety to this section, the one erected by Mr. J. Pink Parker, on his own private property by his own private funds to the memory of J. Wilkes Booth. This stone was about three feet high and was in one corner of his yard. It has now been entirely removed so that no trace of it can be found.

"Mr. Parker fought in the war between the states, and afterwards refused to take the oath of allegiance, being perhaps the bitterest rebel in this section and priding himself on the fact.

"He bought the stone, while a member of the Troy police force years ago, and when refused permission to place it in a public place put it in his own yard, behind a high fence."

Q.—Was a monument to John Wilkes Booth ever erected in any southern city?

A.—Pink Carter, a policeman who lived in Troy, Alabama, erected a monument to John Wilkes Booth and attempted to put this monument on the public square of the town. He was prevented by the citizens of the town and so he erected it in his own yard. The inscription on the monument read: "To the Memory of John Wilkes Booth for the Killing of Old Lincoln." The monument stood in this yard for years but was finally removed by persons whose identity has never been established. 1522

J WRIGHT

A monument to the slayer of 'Old Abe'

BY WILL STANLEY

ABRAHAM LINCOLN had millions of friends, but nobody ever hated him like John Wilkes Booth of Maryland and Joseph Pinkney Parker of Alabama.

Booth's hatred of Abe Lincoln is patent. Every schoolboy can describe how the villainous assassin sneaked into Ford's Theater on the night of April 14, 1865—92 years ago today—and fired the shot that sent the Great Emancinator into eternity—and martyrdom.

Few people know about Pink Parker, however. He was the man who hated Abe Lincoln so long and so hard that he celebrated the anniversary of the president's death regularly for 56 years and erected a monument in his front yard to honor the "hero" who murdered him.

PARKER, the son of a well-to-do Coffee County, Ala., planter, joined the Confederate Army in 1861 and served throughout the war with Gen. Lee in Northern Virginia.

After the South's defeat, he returned to his native state to find his ancestral home burned to the ground, his slaves gone, his livestock stolen, his fertile land in weeds, and his family inheritance eaten up by debts.

War-weary and now bitterly enraged, Parker was consumed by a violent hatred for the United States, for the North, for all Yankees living or dead, and especially for the one man who somehow personified everything he so very fiercely despised—Abraham Lincoln.

When Parker's last remaining bit of property was confiscated for taxes, he—a former Spring Hill Academy student—was forced to earn a living as a "track walker" on the railroad, and a country school teacher who worked for "board and keep." Finally, reduced almost to poverty, he moved to the town of Troy, Ala., and hired out as a policeman.

MEANTIME, his hatred for Abraham Lincoln continued to be the one sad, mad obsession of his life. He refused to take the Federal oath of allegiance, openly boasting that he was the "bitterest Rebel in the South."

The mere mention of Lincoln's name brought forth from his lips impassioned flights of vilest profanity. Even his shocked and mortified friends avoided him. The Baptist Church, of which he had long been a devout member, removed him from its rolls.

But still Parker's ever-growing hatred for the martyred president was like an angry thorn piercing his heart.

Regularly each year, on April 15, Parker celebrated Booth's murder of Lincoln by dressing up in his Sunday suit, pinning a homemade paper badge on his lapel, and parading around the town square. The badge bore the date and the numbered anniversary of the "Death of Old Abe Lincoln."

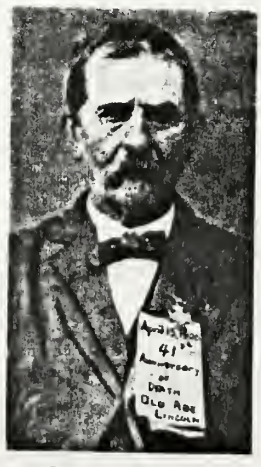
ON THE 41ST anniversary, in 1906, Parker bought a fine granite monument, properly inscribed to suit his loathing, and proudly presented it to the town of Troy to be placed on the public square.

When Troy officials declined the offer, Parker erected the stone in his own front yard on West Madison Street—and there it stayed for 15 years, an object of great curiosity to tourists.

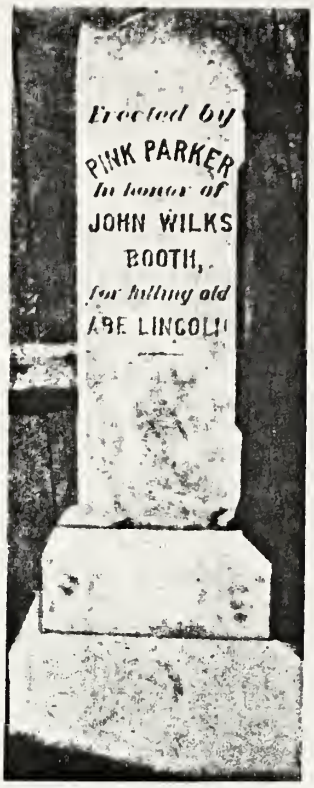
Parker was as proud as could be of his accomplishment. One anniversary he gleefully had his photograph taken to exhibit his hateful lapel badge. When his friends teased him about the difficulty he'd have getting along with Yankees when he ascended into Heaven, Parker would say that he didn't believe there'd be enough of them up there to bother him!

Parker slowly went blind, as the years passed, and his health failed. But the thorn in his heart grew stronger.

WHEN TROY began to gain much unfavorable notoriety because of the Booth monument, Parker steadfastly refused to remove it. Once a delegation of Northern people called upon Parker to request the monument's destruction. But he declined, claiming that he had a right to memorialize anybody he pleased on his own premises.



On each April 15th, Pink Parker dressed up in his Sunday suit and pinned a scrap of paper on his lapel, with the paper inscribed to commemorate the assassination of Abe Lincoln.



Here's the monument to the killer of "Old Abe" that created a furor in Troy, Ala.

In June, 1921, the Women's League of Repuhlican Voters in Alabama petitioned citizens throughout America, regardless of party affiliations, to come to its aid in destroying the monument forever. News stories about the matter appeared locally and in such papers as The Brooklyn Eagle, The Washington Post, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and Grit.

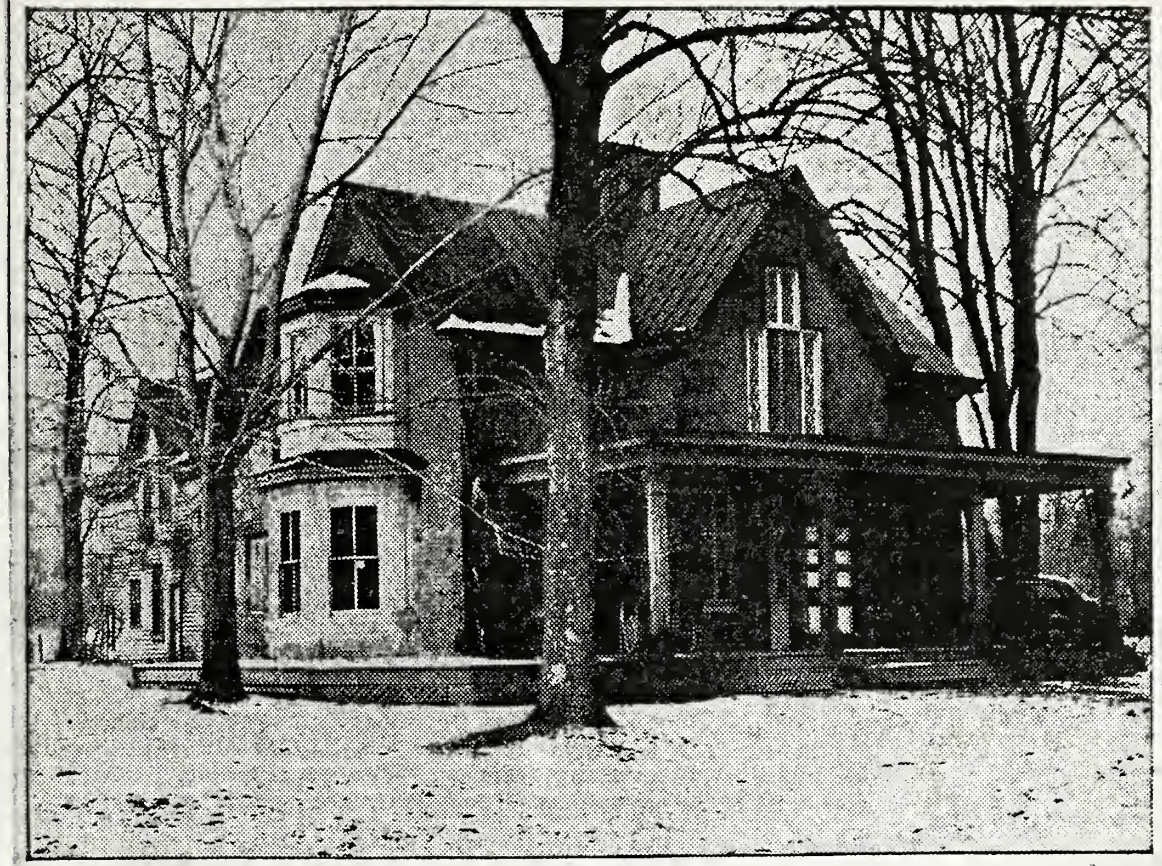
Letters poured in from all over the country, but the league's plan finally fizzled and, when Parker was taken to Georgia to be cared for by relatives, small boys pulled the marker down as a Halloween prank.

SIX MONTHS later Parker died and his 82-year-old body was returned to Troy for burial in the family plot in Oakwood Cemetery. His sons hauled the old monument to the stonecutter, who shaved off the inscription to John Wilkes Booth and neatly recarved the marker as a headstone for Parker's own grave!

Not long afterwards, the monument began to lean, pushed over by a thorn tree that grew directly out of the grave. Since then, or so the story goes, as often as the stone is righted the tree grows back to force it aside again.

Folks in Troy doubt if there'll ever be an end to this struggle, for the thorn tree, some say, is a strong one, the one that took root many years ago in Pink Parker's heart. ★ ★ ★

Booth Home And Museum Items Housed In It



Tudor Hall, the home of John Wilkes Booth, near Bel Air.

War Department Washington, April 20, 1865.

$100,000 REWARD

THE MURDERER

Of our late beloved President, Abraham Lincoln

IS STILL AT LARGE.

$50,000 REWARD

$25,000 REWARD

$25,000 REWARD

LIBERAL REWARDS will be paid for any information that shall conduce to the arrest of either of the above-named criminals, or their accomplices.

All persons harboring or secreting the said persons, or either of them, or aiding or assisting their concealment or escape, will be treated as accomplices in the murder of the President and the attempted assassination of the Secretary of State, and shall be subject to trial before a Military Commission and the punishment of DEATH.

Let the stain of innocent blood be removed from the land by the arrest and punishment of the murderers.

All good citizens are exhorted to aid public justice on this occasion. Every man should consider his own conscience charged with this solemn duty, and rest neither night nor day until it be accomplished.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Evidences of the fame that preceded Booth's infamy.

[*Story and other pictures on Page 18.*]

A Scoop for the Columbian

Always seeking interesting reading matter for the readers of the Columbia Club magazine, Dave Braden asked Dr. Stewart McClelland if he had any unusual stories pertaining to Abraham Lincoln, and in presenting this story it is well to state here that Dr. McClelland is one of the outstanding authorities on the life of Lincoln, having traveled far and wide lecturing and gathering data about the most famous of all men. Dr. McClelland is a member of the Columbia Club and is the sponsor of the Indiana Institute for the Dale Carnegie Classes. So here is the story for which the Club magazine thanks Dr. McClelland for the privilege of publishing it.

PROLOGUE

Many times I have wondered how an article came to be written. For anyone who is interested, this is the way this story came into being.

Milo Parker was enrolled in one of our advanced classes in Jacksonville, Fla., in the winter of 1949. One evening he paid a tribute to Abraham Lincoln which fairly made my spine tingle. I have often wished that I had requested him to write it out.

After the class was over, Milo came up to me and told me that he was the grandson of "Pink" Parker who had erected the monument to Booth. Of course, I had heard of it but knew so little about the matter that I began with the help of Milo and his brother Haylow to dig into the whole thing.

We made a trip to Troy and spent a couple of days talking to people who well remembered the whole incident. And then very fortunately for us, in one of our classes in Miami we found that one of our members, Walter Storm, was the brother-in-law of Mrs. C. D. Brooks. Mrs. Brooks turned over to us her voluminous correspondence concerning the Booth monument and in many ways was of great assistance to us.

But to Milo and Haylow Parker, who furnished us with pictures of their grandfather and the original stone, we (Ann and I) owe a debt of friendship which will take a long time to repay.

It is such a quiet, peaceful little spot in the rear of Oakwood Cemetery in Troy, Alabama. Here is a small stone, some three and one-half feet high, leaning a little as if it had become tired of standing erect. On one side, it bears the legend, Joseph Pinkney/Parker/Born/Aug 16, 1839/Died/Dec 12, 1921. On the other side appears his record in the Confederate Army: Served through the War of 1861-1865/in Company A/2nd Ga Btl. Infty./Wright's Brigade/Mohone's Div./AP Hills Corps/Army Northern Virginia.

No one could believe by looking at this marker that it could possibly have been the storm center for years in the beautiful little town of Troy, Alabama. But when it was first erected, it was not as a marker for a tomb, but a memorial to an assassin and carried this inscription: Erected by/Pink Parker/In honor of/John Wilks (sic.)/Booth/for killing old/Abe Lincoln.

So many things have been told about Pink Parker and his monument which do not agree with the facts, that we are going to attempt to tell the story as we have been able to get it from his grandsons and people in Troy who knew him and loved him.

But first, let us see the picture as it was in the summer of 1921 when Pink was already more than half blind, sick and living with his son in Georgia.

The Brooklyn Eagle of Sunday morning, June 5, 1921, had this to say:

Mrs. C. D. Brooks, president of the Women's League of Republican Voters in Alabama, has issued a call to good citizens, whatever their party affiliations, to join with the League in plans to remove the monument to John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of Abraham Lincoln, which is still standing in Troy, Alabama, where there is also a State Normal School. This was erected by popular subscription in 1866. The sentiment that condoned the political murder of the most lovable man in history is a curious thing to study after the lapse of more than half a century. The whole South of today honors Lincoln's memory. There are no pilgrims to the grave of John Wilkes Booth or to his monument.

Yet the temporary existence of the sentiment that led to the erection of this monument is not surprising. Booth's crime in Ford's Theatre, April 14, 1865, was concededly not actuated by personal hate, or by any motive, save the hysterical passions of a hysterical, bad actor. And the long conspiracy trials by court-martial that followed the crime and Booth's death as a hunted fugitive on April 26, trials in which Jefferson Davis, the former President of the Confederacy, was at first named as a factor in the plot, and which in the judgment of some Northern lawyers as well as Southerners resulted in the "judicial murder" of Mrs. Surrat, were calculated to inspire a certain tolerance for what Booth had done, at least in certain sections of the Cotton States.

The Ford's Theatre tragedy hung for many years like a pall upon the spirits of the assassin's brother, whom all America knew and admired, Edwin Booth. We may assume that Edwin Booth never saw the

(Continued on Page 50)

[section missing]

A Scoop for the Columbian

(Continued from Page 59)

with the inscription buried in the ground and is not noticeable from the street.

The people of this town did not approve of the erection of such a monument when it was set up some 15 years ago. It was seen by very few people, as the old man's home was not on a principal street, and the people of this city now really are glad that the monument no longer stands.

We are making the facts known to you simply because we do not care for the publicity we are getting about this matter and now that we have stated the facts to you we believe you will be fair enough to the people of this section to so state the facts in your excellent paper.

We have reproduced your article in our paper with our comment and also given notice that in case we could have the facts published in your paper we would also reproduce it in our paper.

If you care to do your Southern friends this favor, kindly mail a copy of your paper to this office that we may pass on to our readers the correction of a mistake that does a gross injustice to the citizenship of our little city.

B. G. McCalman
Editor Troy, Ala., Herald

The next newspaper article we are able to find appears in the Washington Post Sunday, July 17, 1921:

Troy, Ala., Compels him to remove tablet to Lincoln's Slayer. Special to the Washington Post.

Troy, Ala., July 16.—By order of the town council a monument to John Wilkes Booth, assassin of Abraham Lincoln, which has stood for a number of years in the yard of Pink Parker, a resident of this place, has been removed and its owner instructed not to restore it to its former position. It now occupies an obscure place in his barn.

The monument, which is a tablet of granite about three feet high, has given this community a certain notoriety for a number of years and repeated efforts have been made to induce its owner to remove it. Until now he has always refused, insisting that he had a right to keep whatever he liked on his property.

Parker, who was a policeman, is a veteran of the Confederate Army, and has long taken pride in a description sometimes given him as "the bitterest rebel in the South." He never took the oath of allegiance after the civil war. When he first concluded to put up a monument to Booth he had the stone cut and inscribed and then offered it to Troy to be placed in a public park. When the offer was declined he set it up in his yard. Of late so much criticism was directed at this monument that he built a board fence around it. The stone bore the inscription: "Sacred to the memory of John Wilkes Booth who died a hero."

More About Pink

Joseph Pinkey Parker was born in Coffee County, Alabama, in 1839. He had just finished as a student at Spring Hill Academy when the war broke out. He left immediately for the front, leaving behind him on a well-stocked plantation, his sister and the slaves which every well-to-do Alabaman possessed at that time. Four years later, he returned to find his farm overgrown with weeds, his stock and his slaves dis-

appeared and his sister embittered by her treatment received at the hands of the Northern soldiers. The property was soon eaten up by taxes ,so he took a position as a "walker" on the railroad tracks carrying with him maul and spikes to keep the tracks repaired.

He became a school teacher, but the parents of the childen were too poor to pay the salary, or even to clothe the pupils properly. As years went on, he did

Photograph of "Pink" Parker taken the day he erected his monument to Booth.

regain some of his financial position and built for himself and his family a very comfortable home in Troy, just a block or two from the famous trace which Andrew Jackson used in his battles against the Indians in Florida.

Pink was a devout member of the Baptist Church. He never called his wife anything but "Darling" and taught his children to do the same. He became a police officer in the little town of Troy and a much-respected citizen. But he had one obsession which was so deeply instilled in him that he never was able to overcome it; a deep and lasting hate for the North, its people, and particularly for the man who was the sixteenth President of the United States; a man so great that, today, Abraham Lincoln is revered in the South, together with the famous champion of the Lost Cause, Robert E. Lee.

A Scoop for the Columbian

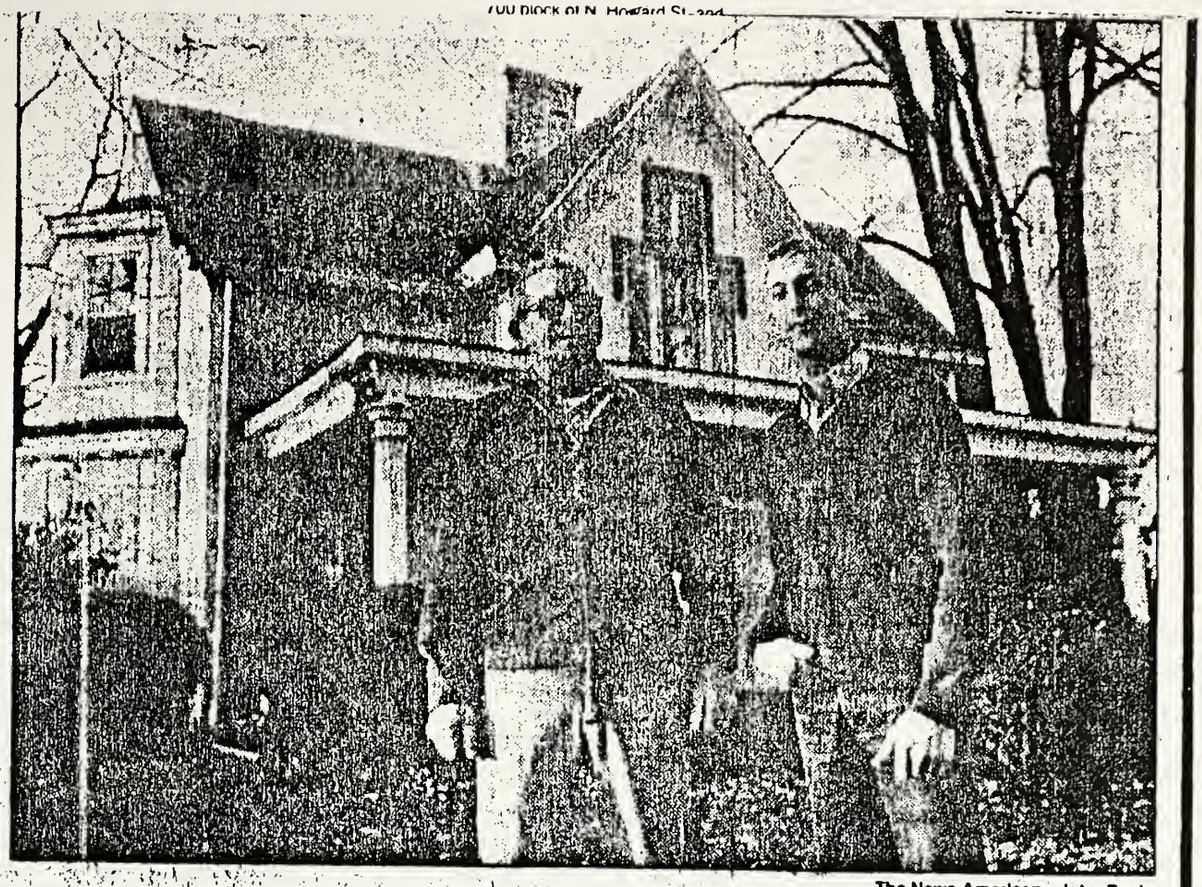
(Continued from Page 61)

As Pink Parker went on nursing his wrath from year to year, the North and the name of Lincoln would cause him to burst forth into the most impassioned flights of profanity which not merely astonished but shocked his friends. The pastor of the Baptist Church labored with him to stop these outbursts. But they continued and Pink was finally removed from the church rolls for his profanity. Rather ruefully, Pink remarked to a friend, "It wasn't quite fair. I know all the deacons in that church and any one of them can cuss better than I can."

Time went on and each succeeding April 15, Pink would make for himself a paper badge indicating that this date was the "Anniversary of the Death of Old Abe Lincoln." Years passed, the idea came into his head that he would erect a monument to the memory of John Wilkes Booth. Apparently, he did not share this intention with anyone, so it was a surprise to the citizens of Troy when this monument, some four feet high, was erected in the yard of Pink's home. His neighbors did not like the idea, but they did like Pink Parker. The strange thing about the erection of this monument is the fact that it was not erected until 1906, in spite of the fact that the newspapers of the 20s stated that it had been erected by popular subscription by the citizens of Troy in 1866.

No one paid much attention to the monument. Automobiles were not as plentiful as they are today and traffic did not flow through Troy as it does now. Pink was pretty proud of his handiwork and he used to regale his grandsons with the story of his sending President Theodore Roosevelt a postcard inviting him to come and visit the monument. He further informed the President that while he couldn't furnish a carriage for him, he would get him a dray hauled by a couple of mules.

When Pink's grandsons would twit him on the fact that he might not be able to get along with the Yankees he found in Heaven, his eyes would twinkle and he would say, "Well, I don't suppose I will find enough up there to bother me."



The News American - John Davis

MARYLAND HERITAGE: Howard L. Fox and David P. Reuwer, above, stand in front of Tudor Hall, the Harford County home that once belonged to the family of John Wilkes Booth, actor and assassin of Abraham Lincoln. The elegance and desperate need for restoration are evident in the fine lines and crumbling plaster of the first-floor parlor, right.

'Ghost' musters revival effort

Residents of historic Booth home get into fund-raising spirit

By Joyce Price
News American Staff

Howard and Dorothy Fox said they had their first close encounter with a "friendly spirit" at Tudor Hall, the Harford County birthplace of Edwin and John Wilkes Booth, shortly after they bought the then-ramshackle brick cottage and its 8 acres of ground near Bel Air in 1968.

"We were down in the spring area of the property when a little piebald (or black-and-white) pony came up to us," Dorothy Fox said.

"After a few seconds, the pony then turned and went up to the back porch of the main house, where he disappeared. We never saw him again after that."

Dorothy said she and her husband thought the experience was strange, but thought it even more so when they found out that the Booth brothers' father, Junius Brutus Booth, also a noted 19th-century actor, had owned a piebald pony just like the one they saw.

She said the senior Booth had taken the pony, which he called "Peacock," with him when he left England in 1821 and moved to this country.

"The history books say Junius loved that pony as if it were a member of the family and that he rode it everywhere," Dorothy Fox said. "His love of animals went so far as to make him a vegetarian, and he also forbade his children to eat meat. When Peacock died, Junius had the minister perform funeral services for the little pony."

Based on other unexplained phenonema that have occurred at Tudor Hall over the years, Dorothy Fox said she and her husband today believe the pony that approached them 16 years ago was Peacock.

"We were the new occupants of his owner's home, and he was probably just looking us over," she said.

Dorothy Fox said that one night, as she and her husband entertained eight dinner guests at Tudor Hall, the party witnessed an event that left them all speechless.

"We were having coffee and cake, and I asked one gentleman if he'd care for some more, and he said he would like more cake," Dorothy recalled. "All of a sudden the entire top layer of that cake we were eating flew around the table and wound up in front of him."

Other events at Tudor Hall that have baffled the Foxes over the years include:

- The time when they discovered that the plugs of all the appliances in the house mysteriously had been pulled out.
- The time when Dorothy Fox heard the voice of a woman call, "Please help me." She believes it might have been the voice of her mother, who died at Tudor Hall in the early 1970s.
- The time when David P. Reuwer, who now heads a program to restore Tudor Hall, was wire-brushing the living room fireplace and heard an elderly woman scream, "Help me, David." Reuwer said three dogs were with him at the time and that the ears of all three perked up.
- The occasions when Dorothy Fox has been reading in John Wilkes Booth's bedroom and has felt someone walk past the room and has smelled the odor of strong perfume.
- The times when she and others have heard the sound of breaking crystal but never found anything broken and have heard the sound of voices mumbling, although no one could be found.
- The time when a large antique mirror, hanging over an antique server eight inches above a pair of hurricane lamps, fell off a wall, flew in the air about 8-10 feet, crossed over the server and landed face-up on the floor. The mirror was shattered, but later was restored. The Foxes said the damage would have been much greater had it fallen on the server.

Howard Fox said the mirror incident, which occurred about two years ago, was the last such episode at Tudor Hall. "Dorothy and I believe the spirits involved in all these unusual events were members of

The News American
Fed 12/26/84 See BOOTH, 3B

Friendly 'ghost' musters revival effort

Historic Booth home gets new face to please spirits of the past

BOOTH from 1B

the Booth family," he said.

"We feel they were more active at first, since most of the people who had lived here before us were speculators, and the spirits were probably restless and concerned about what these other people had done to their family's estate.

"But now that they've had a chance to get to know us and see that we're trying to restore and preserve their home, they've undoubtedly calmed down a lot."

Fox, a retired building contractor, and his wife, a former executive director of the Cystic Fibrosis Society, were newlyweds when they bought Tudor Hall 16 years ago. "At the time, we were looking for an old house up here to renovate," he said.

"I made some inquiries, and J. Vaughan McMahon, who was the local police chief at that time, told me the 'old Booth place' was for sale. When he said that, I didn't think the name, Booth, had any more significance than Smith or Brown. In fact, it wasn't until after we'd looked at the property four or five times that the real estate agent who was selling it told us it was the house where John Wilkes Booth, the man who assassinated Abraham Lincoln, was born."

John Wilkes Booth's father bought the property, which then encompassed 150 acres, for $733 in 1824. Junius Brutus Booth and Mary Ann Holmes, a flower girl he met at a London theater and fell in love with, were the parents of 10 children, nine of whom were born at Tudor Hall.

But the Booths were only one of four families that owned and lived at Tudor Hall between 1824 and 1968, when the Foxes bought it. Over the years, other owners who succeeded the Booths sold off much of the land, and today Tudor Hall comprises only 8.3 acres. However, it is protected by a 125-acre historic district. This designation prevents the adjoining land from being used for anything except agricultural purposes.

The stories about ghosts, coupled with the unique spot John Wilkes Booth holds in American history, are proving to be lures in getting people to spend the night at Tudor Hall. For $75, you can sleep in a 250-year-old double rope bed in John Wilkes Booth's room and also enjoy a private bath and a continental breakfast. Twin beds, with the same amenities offered, rent for $48 a night.

Proceeds from the nightly rentals and other fund-raising efforts are being used by Path Inc. — or the Preservation Association for Tudor Hall Inc. — to restore the main house to the way it was when the Booths lived there and to establish a library offering the best resources available to Civil War buffs, particularly Lincoln assassination scholars. The library will be located in the same first-floor room that Junius Brutus Booth used as his library.

Dorothy Fox said, "We've almost completed restoring the main house's original tin-seamed roof and we're now working on the interior. John Wilkes Booth's first bedroom is finished. That's the room that features the charming Shakespearean balcony off of it."

Reuwer, executive director of Path Inc., who, like the Foxes, lives at Tudor Hall, said that balcony was where Edwin Booth, John Wilkes' older brother, stood and practiced acting as a young boy. Edwin Booth, whose career declined after his brother's fatal shooting of Lincoln, was barely into adolescence when he took off for California with his father to begin his life on the stage.

Reuwer said contractors with expertise in historic preservation also have begun digging up the foundations of a log cabin, about 50 yards from the main house, which served as the Booth family's first residence at Tudor Hall. It was in that cabin that the nine children were born.

Junius Brutus Booth subsequently had the larger dwelling built to house his growing family.

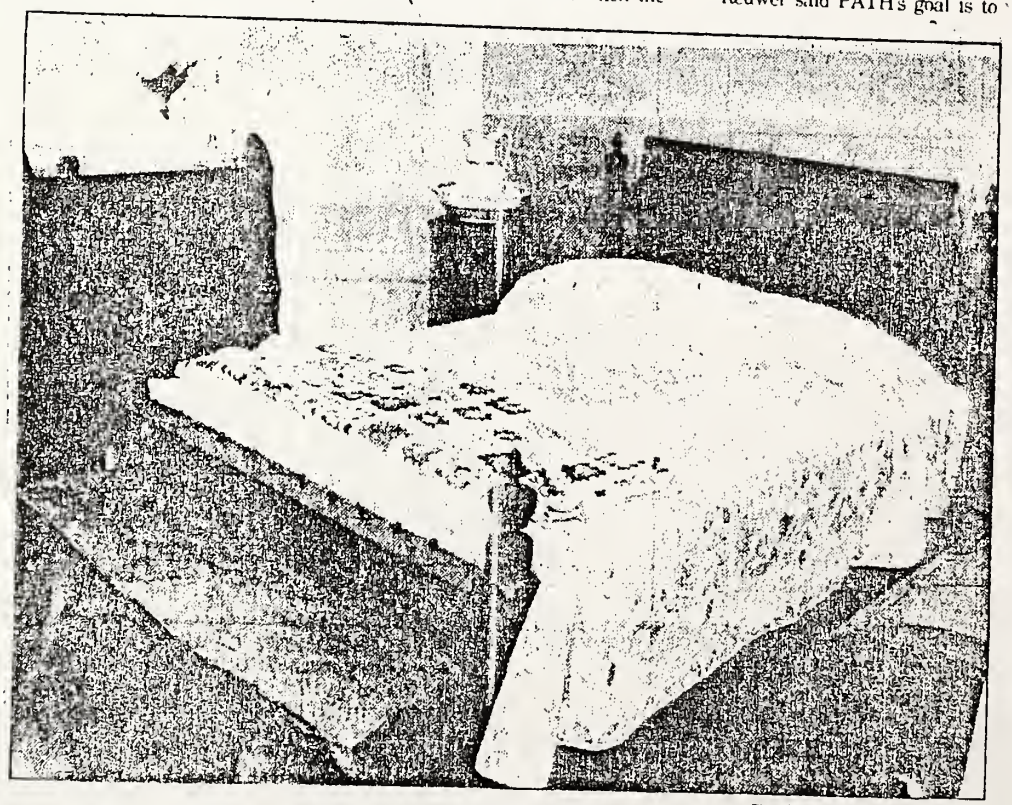
Reuwer said PATH's goal is to raise $200,000 for its restoration and preservation. "We've already raised $12,000 in cash and gifts since last July," he said.

Reuwer, a 25-year-old law school graduate, who's been a student of the Lincoln assassination since he was 6 years old, said that next spring, PATH Inc. will open the first floor of the house, including the library, as a museum for those who become members of the preservation organization. Currently, that part of the house is open for tours on an appointment basis only.

Reuwer said the partial museum and library to be open next year will feature a number of significant historic documents and antiques of interest to those curious about the Booth family and Lincoln's assassination. The list includes a captain's chair that belonged to the Booths (bought at auction in 1949); 15 letters written by Edwin Booth; an original lithograph of John Wilkes Booth, dated 1865, and an original copy of the rare book, "The Life, Crime and Capture of John Wilkes Booth" by George Alfred Townsend.

Reuwer said the copy of the book in PATH's possession is particularly desirable because it was signed by a Cpl. Charles Tanner, who served as stenographer for Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, who ran the U.S. government for several days after Lincoln's death.

He said that Howard and Dorothy Fox, who serve as PATH's president and vice president, respectively, have committed themselves to turning over the entire house for museum purposes after their deaths.



The News American - John Davis

STILL OCCUPIED?: The bedroom of John Wilkes Booth is simply furnished with a rope bed of the period. Dorothy Fox recalls reading in the bedroom when she felt someone walk past and smelled strong perfume. The bedroom is available to guests at $75 a night — with no guarantee of a ghost.

PATHWAYS

November, 1984

THE JOURNAL OF THE BOOTH FAMILY, LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION & HISTORIC PRESERVATION LAW

TUDOR HALL PRESERVED

Candlelight Christmas at Tudor Hall - Dec. 15

PATH, Inc.

Published by the
PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION for TUDOR HALL, Inc.
TUDOR HALL
BEL AIR, MD 21014
(301) 838-2668 or 838-0466

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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ILLUSTATOR: Scott Roberts

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PATH is seeking distinguished individuals to serve on our Advisory Board of Governors.

Recommendations and nominations are now being accepted.

DEDICATION

This first issue of **PATHWAYS** is dedicated to Howard and Dorothy Fox. Their foresight, generosity and wisdom have served to preserve, open and share Tudor Hall with all people forever. They have made PATH, Inc. possible. Howard and Dorothy have cared enough to protect our past, while understanding its value for the present. For this, we heartily thank them.

NOTICE: PATHWAYS accepts manuscripts, articles, poems, and news items for publication. Prompt notification of accepted material is given.
CONTACT: David Reuwer, PATHWAYS Journal, Tudor Hall, Bel Air, MD 21014. (301) 838-2668 or 838-0466. Material will not be returned unless accommpanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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TWIN BEDS $48.00

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JOHN WILKES BOOTH BEDROOM

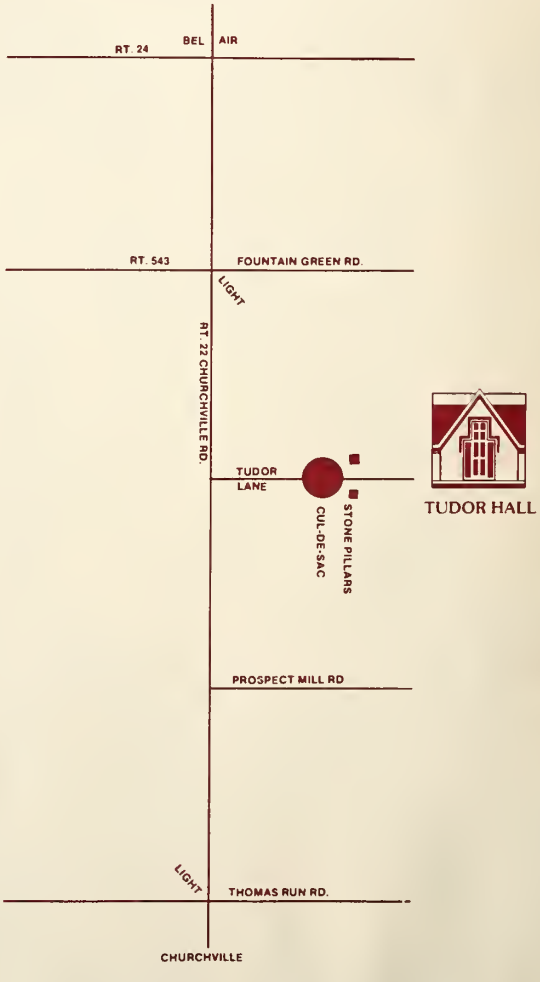
Double Rope Bed - $75.00

Private Bath - Continental Breakfast

RESERVATIONS: Call or write your hosts, Dorothy and Howard Fox - 1/3 deposit (non-refundable upon cancellation)

THE LOGO

The LOGO of the Preservation Association for Tudor Hall was designed and drawn by Scott Roberts. It represents a graphic outside view of the second floor, front parlor window. It symbolizes the beauty and charm of Tudor Hall as well as to note the significant architectural style and value of the home. Thus, the triangular centerpiece effect that is formed by the gabled roof celebrates Tudor Hall's tripartite signifiance in American History, Theater and Architecture.



Tudor Hall Preserved

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On a particular August afternoon eleven years ago, a love story began between Tudor Hall and I. (Such enchantment is better described in a poem by one of our able writers.) The relationship blossomed in high school, fluctuated through college, stagnated during law school, and has reemerged a lifelong commitment. In my travels across this great country, I have seen many splendid homes and well done preservation works. But Tudor Hall never failed to captivate me.

It is something more than the diamond casement windows, the Romeo and Juliet balcony, the country charm, the theatrical designs, and the Booth imprints. It is the smell of history, a pinch of spirits, the tinge of grace, a dose of warmth and friendliness, and more. It is amazing that some have succeeded in keeping Tudor Hall a secret away from the public, the tourist, the historian, the buff, for half a century. But now it's out.

THE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION for TUDOR HALL, Inc. (PATH) is a non-profit organization committed to the restoration and revitalization of the grand home and country farm of the Booth family. PATH is making Tudor Hall a museum, library and bed and breakfast concern. Contributions and donations to PATH are tax deductible. Visitors are very welcome.

It has always annoyed me that when I really needed a Civil War or Booth book for research purposes, the public or school library never had it. They just aren't that deep, usually. What a wonderful idea to have a subject library — full of nothing but books, papers, pictures and letters on the Booths, theater, Lincoln's assassination, the Civil War, and historic preservation law. And now we have it, open to our members. A point of clarification, the J.B.B. library is available for use by ALL our members but subscribers must make an appointment in advance.

PATH desires that Tudor Hall will be a country retreat for luncheons, conferences, meetings and office parties. Likewise, Tudor Hall makes an ideal setting for a country or Victorian wedding and reception. Of course, there is our own very special Candlelight Christmas Buffet on December 15. Tudor Hall is fast becoming a mecca for Lincoln's assassination and Civil War research. Come and listen to the whispers of the Booth family.

We have implemented a sophisticated income generation campaign. PATH is seeking local, state and federal endowments and matching funds. More aggressively, we are influencing county and state businesses to throw a little our way in a mutually beneficial relationship — exchanging press, memorials, advertising, tourist influx, and good will for dollars. If you have ideas or time to give, we can use YOU.

I recall how far we have come in three months ... due to the good faith and support of many of you. As our understanding of historical treasures and their interpretation matures, I know how far we have yet to explore and to share.

A program of this quality having been initiated, we can only succeed! Trod with me, friend, this adventurous PATHWAY ...

David Paul Reuwer

THE JUNIUS BRUTUS BOOTH LIBRARY

by Ann Carter Phillips

Beyond the mullioned windows of Tudor Hall a veritable treasure trove is emerging and soon will be displayed for the pleasure, enlightenment and scholarship of PATH members.

Unique to Harford County (and perhaps the State), the concept of a library comprising the era of the Booth generations is rapidly being realized. Far from being limiting, the period covers an expanse of material which includes voluminous texts on the Booths, Lincoln and the Civil War, antiques, architecture, and, of course, the theatre.

Numerous first editions illuminate the Tudor Hall collection; several rare and valuable volumes would doubtless quicken the pulse of book dealers and Civil War buffs.

Among the gems of Tudor Hall's literary acquisitions are James Tanner's signed copy of George Alfred Townsend's work, *The Life, Crime and Capture of John Wilkes Booth.* Tanner was the corporal who took shorthand at the Peterson House for E.M. Stanton on April 14-15, 1865. Peterson's, *The Trial of the Assassins and Conspirators at Washington City, D.C. May and June 1865 for the Murder of President Lincoln* is another scarce first edition; Ben Pitman, author of, *The Assassination of President Lincoln and the Trial of the Conspirators* was one of the court stenographers during the Conspiracy Trial. In an attempt to humanize her brother John Wilkes Booth, Asia Booth Clarke writes movingly in, *The Unlocked Book.*

The list continues numbering hundreds of classic and popular treatises on the Lincoln tragedy and the Booth epoch.

Crowning the archival cornucopia are scores of original letters written by the great actor Edwin Booth. Edwin maintained a life-long correspondence with his boyhood friend William E.C. Harrison. These letters found in a safe deposit box many years after Harrison's death describe the warmth, humor and affection that existed among that rather exclusive circle of friends — Booth, Harison, John Sleeper Clark and John T. Ford, the theatre manager. A particularly insightful essay, "How to Raise the Wind," is reprinted elsewhere on these pages through the courtesy of Tudor Hall. The article, entitled "Reminiscences of the late Wm. E.C. Harrison," is taken from a later nineteenth century newspaper.

Here in these historic rooms surrounded by the ghosts of distant deeds and far-off echoes one is easily seduced by the romance of yesterday. Nostalgia now, these papers parched and brittled; but they are steadfast witnesses for their time. Pour over century-old volumes and see the gently worn words connect the thread from then to now. How many hands before worried these pages? Whose flyleaf signature flourishes in these books? Whose is contained? What secrets did those sepia images hold in their frozen moment?

Here they are today coursing through new minds — numbered lithographs, signed photographs hanging for posterity; and studied written works catalogued and shelved. The past is present at Tudor Hall.

PATH wishes to thank our many generous contributors and to acknowledge those donations of books, pictures, furniture, and miscellaneous items essential to the completion of the Tudor Hall Library and Museum. All gifts are duly noted by the Board and recorded by our archivist.

RAISING THE WIND

Copy from a late 1800 "Herald" newspaper clipping found among the Edwin Booth letters.

TALES OF EDWIN BOOTH

Reminiscences of the late Wm. E.C. Harrison

"How to Raise the Winds"

The manner in which Booth, John Sleeper Clark and Mr. Harrison managed to gain admission to theatres - The late John T. Ford, also a member of the Little Company.

The late William E.C. Harrison, who died Friday night, was a very intimate friend and close companion of Edwin Booth, John Sleeper Clark and John T. Ford. Of the famous actors and the veteran theatrical manager, Mr. Harrison had a varied and interesting fund of reminiscences, which he has left as a valued heritage of his sons.

Booth and Clark were inseparable playmates of Mr. Harrison when he was a boy. The three lads were not only comrades, but carried their friendship to such an extent that they almost entirely excluded others from their triune. Mr. Harrison loved to tell his sons tales of his youthful days, and many of these stories have never been told in print. Among them may be instanced the following related to a *Herald* reporter last night by Henry F. Harrison:

> When Edwin Booth was still a child he had a passion for the theatre far beyond his means of gratifying his tastes. His friends, Clark and Harrison, were not less enthusiastic upon subjects relating to the drama, and they used to plot and plan for money with which to pay entrance fees as earnestly as though their lives depended upon securing admission within the portals which to them represented almost all the enjoyment of life..

RAISING THE WIND

A favorite means of "Raising the Wind" was to buy and sell "boy" pieces. These represented 12½ cents of currency. half a cent was not valued more highly then now, and when the boys bought they paid 12 cents; when they sold to their good-natured customers the "levy" brought 13 cents a clear gain of one cent upon each transaction. Theatre tickets had not reached their present high pride in those days, and the young exchange brokers were not long in securing the small sum then charged.

The two actors and the bookkeeper kept up their warm friendship until the end, and they never failed to meet as often as possible. When the requirements of the dramatic profession resulted in separation, as of course, was most

(Cont'd.)

frequently the case, their correspondence was regular and lengthy. One letter from Clark to Mr. Harrison still in the possession of the latter's family, is dated New Orleans and commences "Dear Long 9". This is a humorous allusion to Mr. Harrison's tall, slender frame and to carry out the joke the shank of the figure 9 is made to reach to the bottom of the sheet of note paper.

Sympathizing Friends

Mr. Harrison's late residence, 2204 Eutaw Place, was visited yesterday by many sympathetic friends of the family, and a number of letters expressing condolence were received. Among the latter was one from Charles E. Ford, who inherited his father's affections for the deceased. The funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. The interment, in Greenmount Cemetery, will be made in private, but a general invitation has been issued to relatives and friends of the family to attend the services at the house, which will be conducted by Dr. J.H. Wightman.

OCTOBER PASSAGE

Ann Carter Phillips

When first I traversed Tudor Lane
One crisp and clear October eve
Apple ripe and woodsmoke pungent
Arching in the autumn air,
The night wind tolled and taunted
Sentry deep moon-shadowed trees
Whose fallen rainment faded dry,
Curled and broke beneath my feet.
The crunching cadence sounded
As I traced the turning path,
Then stopped. And in the clearing loomed
A structure shimmering
Pale with light and memory;
A storybook cottage rising
From the wood. I caught my breath
And shivered unaccountably.
In the dark distance mounted
The drill of horse's hooves
Ever louder, ever nearer
Hammering the fallow land.
A rush of wind, a piercing screech
Shrilled, then fainting, died.
Shades of Ichabod Crane! Was this
Some play of Halloween?
I mentioned nothing to my hosts
When I reached Tudor Hall;
Indeed the incident itself
Was sensibly put by
Until one day I chanced upon
An old fine-scripted page
Wrought by a former resident.
One passage stays with me:
The writer cites the thundering rides
Of one capricious youth
Across the farm, sword high and howling --
His brother ... John Wilkes Booth.

COMMENT

I'm not talking about nostalgia for the past, but refinding what worked about the past and bringing it into the present and the future.

President Reagan

ROMEO & JULIET BALCONY

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS AT TUDOR HALL

by Dorothy E. Fox

Civilization had its beginnings around an open fire. Here at its warmth gathered the family to find safety, comfort, and companionship. Fireplace is related to the Latin word focus. There is the explanation of what home has always meant; for home is the center of life, no mere residence of the body but the axis of the heart — the place where affections develop, where children love and learn, where two toil together to make life a blessing.

To picture in a word the depths of want, we say of a man that he is homeless. True, life is a journey, and we are all on a pilgrimage. But when distance has lost its enchantment and the ardor for adventure has cooled, when danger has been bravely faced and wonder satiated, hearts long for a resting place and find it in the glow of the hearth-fire - "the charm from the skies" that hallows life and gives refuge to man's tired soul. Howard and I discovered that what we thought was our home was much more and the fireplaces at "Tudor Hall" were the center of life and still are, for many infamous and famous people.

Visitors generally want to know how we acquired Tudor Hall; if we knew it was historical; if we have spirits or ghosts; do people respect our privacy; how did it all begin. In the late 1960's the local chief of police, J. Vaughn McMahon told us that the old "Booth" place was for sale. The chief's description of the stream, pond, brick cottage with fireplaces, and its state of disrepair found us on the "farm" and immediately negotiating for its purchase.

We commuted on weekends to make the place habitable, cookng on a hot plate and moving sleeping bags from room to room. After many months of negotiations, we took residency in July of 1968.

When strangers would just walk in looking for the museum it piqued our suspicion. When a group from the community college asked us to dedicate the "Edwin Booth Theatre", we visited the library and found Kimmel's book, *"The Mad Booths of Maryland."*

I believe we were more involved in our professional lives, acclimating to a new county and settling in Tudor Hall with its leaking roof, rotted porch, busted pipes, poor septic system and so much more. We had little time for the history lessons yet to come, until we met John C. Brennan of Laurel, MD.

John Brennan is an indefatigable whirlwind of wit and wisdom, an IBM computer, word processor, and an AT&T communications network, all rolled into one. John became our friend over these many years. He has shared his knowledge, research, and much, much more.

Living at Tudor hall is much like trying to describe one of the "Wonders of the World," at least for Howard and I. The house in itself is like no other. It is designed as a cross rather than the "L" shape of its period. Its Elizabethan style, the diamond casement windows, its Shakespearean balcony sit among one of the most beautiful, serene spots in Harford County.

When the moon is full and the stars are bright, the rooftop of the porch is a place to spend hours watching the seasons. The night sounds change and as the clouds pass over, the high, magnificent trees throw different patterns on the lawn or snow. It is a brilliant display of nature.

From the influence and visits of historians, Lincoln and Booth buffs, actors, poets, writers, collectors, curators, architects, etc., our curiosity turned to enthusiasm and we became "hooked" as Booth buffs. What we thought was our "shangrila", really belongs to history and therefore must be shared. Thus, PATH's incorporating and presenting Tudor Hall for all humanity to enjoy.

ARCHEOLOGICAL DIGS

Recent conservation work on the grounds has led to the discovery of what may well prove to be the site of the original log cabin of the Booths. This is the place where Junius Brutus Booth lived for a number of years while constructing Tudor Hall. This site would be the actual birthplace of nine children including Edwin Thomas and John Wilkes. A notable Harford County archeologist, Paul Cresthull, surveyed the discovery hole found by David Reuwer and pronounced it a "good find."

The hole is approximately midway between the main house and the original spring. The remains of a rock wall foundation are clearly visible. Mr. Cresthull outlined a grid plan for PATH workers to follow in further diggings. In this manner, an accurate and tell-tale soil profile can be obtained. Spot holes have also been dug in other locations on the front lawn. Artifacts found in these test holes as of 10/1/84 are:- brick pieces, carbon-tinged sandstone, 1840's wagon staple, nails, potato fork, latch mechanism, mortar fragments, handle rings, and an assortment of unidentified material.

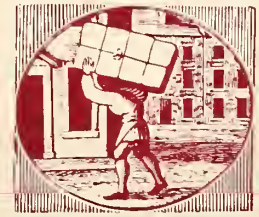
NOTABLES

JAMES T. WOLLON of Havre de Grace, MD donated a steel engraving of Edwin Thomas Booth.

REV. ROBERT L. KEESLER of Laurel, MD donated an 1865 lithograph of John Wilkes Booth.

MRS. PAUL L. BETZ of Towson, MD donated several Edwin Booth letters, signature card, photograph, and John Sleeper Clarke letters.

PATHWAYS will provide more in- depth coverage of noteworthy contributions as specific details come to light.



THIS ISSUE OF **PATHWAYS** IS COMPLIMENTARY. BE SURE NOT TO MISS YOUR DELIVERY OF FUTURE EDITIONS. SUBSCRIBE TODAY. THE $15 IS A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION.

SIZING HISTORICAL TIMBER

by David P. Reuwer

"I don't know whether you have to be an expert to write a book or whether writing a book makes you an expert."

Attributed to A. Lincoln

Knowing today what we did not know yesterday makes life interesting. Historical investigation can be a richly rewarding experience in numerous, multi-faceted ways. First, it may provide a time-tested solution to a present problem. Second, studying and preserving history is actually an investment that pays dividends in the quality of our environment and the sharpness of our mind. Equally, many of us know the sheer joy and excitement of finding a piece that fits the puzzle. How we apply the basic lessons of history helps shape the way we live and our path through life.

There has been a great deal of susceptibility in the field of historical investigation and research. Our interpretation too often seems to be a verbose metamorphosis of what someone else has said or written. It's-true because-they-said-so-syndrome. Yet, truth does not desire a senseless, blind following. Some of the most faithful history buffs and historians are the most narrow-minded and prejudice-filled. They have already decided what is the history and which book they will read. They reject every other insight because they do not blend in with their preconceived notions. Others have stuffed their brains with countless theories, opinions and facts. For years they have received the ideas and hard work of scholars and opportunists alike, but they cannot supply even an iota of support or criticism on their own. They have never ventured into an individual historical enterprise. Should one allow his head to cease thinking, searching and deciding, and to no longer check his knowledge and experience against those of others, he is practically inviting inaccuracy and untruth to invade his mind. The result is that another generation of school children is deceived and so on. Be not manipulated.

A true historian, preservationist and even buff ought to fully exercise his mind. Sometimes, this means you have to grit your teeth against the mainstream. Doing anything for the first time creates a certain degree of fear; this same fear acts as a stimulant to sharpen the investigatory senses. Doing anything so determined as fully exercising the historical mind generates fear and uncertainty. Who-am-I-to-question-them syndrome. Yet each unproven theory, vain idea, unarticulated thought, word casually picked up by ear, line inadvertently read, all provide fertile ground for exploration and embracing a breakthrough. It is possible for a born-again tourist, new-found history buff, biographer, and true historian to have a new life and a new love, but be without a new head.

Regardless of the degree of historical and technical expertise one may possess, it is imperative that one practice the fundamentals. I view these as four basic, simple steps.

1. Working familiarity with subject material.
2. Exercise of the individual intellect.
3. Distillation of bias.
4. Keep an open mind.

Step one without step two is fatal. Having been saturated with a mishmash of everything on the subject, the mind lacks the most significant element of all, which is historical insight. This insight is derived and expunged from the exercise of the individual intellect.

Let's not fool ourselves with step three. Bias is not always bad. It can, however, be relegated to a background level. This way, the interference level of bias has a deminimus effect on listening for the historical clues. Step four allows for the ever-present potential of surprise and enables a feeder source of information to exist. It also makes for the free flow of conversation at historical society meetings. An open mind teaches us to not take ourselves (or our theories) too seriously. Each of us should practice these four steps constantly.

To do less is to work a counterfeit of our individual abilities and gifts.

The historian must be renewed continually in the mind. Get into the field and see the trees for yourself. Get your fingernails dirty. Tempt your intuition. Break your historical molds. Think, think and rethink for yourself. Hash it inside and out with the "experts". Boil it in common sense. See if it still holds water. Then hang it out there for others to wring their hands on. And maybe, just maybe, the historical truth will more clearly and crisply shine forth.

"We must bear in mind that the cause of learning has often been promoted by scholars who are prepared to take a risk and expose their brain-waves to the pitiless criticism of others."

F.F. Bruce, *Christianity Today* 1 (11):5

PATH, INC.
Tudor Hall
Bel Air, MD 21014

Mail Wagon 1880s
USA 9.3c

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- Hors d'oeuvres
- Egg Nog
- Wassil
- Champagne Punch
- Holiday Desserts

- Full Course Turkey/ Ham Buffet
- Christmas Favors
- Five Decorated Christmas Trees
- Music & Carols

DECEMBER 15, 1984 — 5:00 - 9:00 P.M.
Black Tie Optional - $50.00 per person

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Confirmations will be mailed to you.

Make checks payable to:
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MAIL TO: **PATH, TUDOR HALL, BEL AIR, MD 21014**

Tudor Hall

Home of the Maryland Booths

JUNIUS BRUTUS BOOTH
1796-1852

A personal welcome to the
PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION for TUDOR HALL, Inc. (PATH)
a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to helping people protect and revitalize the main house, outbuildings, and premises of the extraordinary **TUDOR HALL** through historical preservation and wise re-use for exhibitions, peformances, conferences, and library facilities.

JOHN WILKES BOOTH
1838-1865

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WHAT TUDOR HALL IS

TUDOR HALL is the home and farm (circa 1822-1865) of JUNIUS BRUTUS BOOTH, and the birthplace and home of nine of his children, notably EDWIN THOMAS and JOHN WILKES, who were raised here. Recorded in the National Register of Historical Places since 1973, **TUDOR HALL** carries with it a legend of visiting spirits and living memories.

EDWIN THOMAS BOOTH
1833-1893

PATH OFFERS:

— A 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, which can make substantial tax benefits available to those who donate money, antiques, equipment, and land. Donations are tax deductible.

— A museum, tour, and library full of facts.

— A center set in history for conferences, bed and breakfast, performances, weddings, and study.

PATH SEEKS:

— Donations of money and gifts with which to restore, preserve, and operate **TUDOR HALL.**

— Donations of BOOTH memorabilia, Civil War artifacts, books, etc.

"Some people live in the present, oblivious of the past and blind to the future. Some dwell in the past. A very few have the knack of applying the past to the present in ways that show them the future.

Great leaders have this knack."

R.M.N.

CHANGE IS INEVITABLE ...
PRESERVATION IS INTENTIONAL.

PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION for TUDOR HALL, Inc.
TUDOR HALL, TUDOR LANE
BEL AIR, MARYLAND 21014
Phone (301) 838-2668 or 838-0466

The Producers

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Howard L. Fox
President

Dorothy E. Fox
Vice President

Arthur Candenquist
Treasurer

Ann C. Phillips
Secretary

David P. Reuwer
Executive Director

The Playbill

PURPOSES AND USES

1. **PRESERVATION.** The specific and primary purpose for which the **PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION for TUDOR HALL** is formed is to renovate, rehabilitate, restore, revitalize, and preserve the historical integrity and value of **TUDOR HALL**, the BOOTH family home and farm, its house, grounds, and outbuildings.

2. **HERITAGE.** To further America's historical, cultural and theatrical heritage through participation of all people in the restoration, rehabilitation, revitalization, and preservation of **TUDOR HALL.**

3. **YOUTH.** To achieve awareness and promote the involvement of young people in the preservation of American history and historical sites.

(over)

The Props

ITEMS PATH SEEKS

If you want to help and are not in a position to give a monetary donation, there are other possibilities you may consider. **PATH** seeks contributions of the following:

Antiques and Art
Booth Memorabilia
Books (re: BOOTHS, Civil War, Theater, LINCOLN, History, Restoration, etc.)
Building Materials
Farm Equipment
Gardening Supplies
Land
Period Pieces

(over)

The Theater

FACILITIES

PATH heartily encourages the sharing of historic **TUDOR HALL** with all people. We ask that you leave only footprints and take only photos. Please ask questions and share your knowledge. In this way, you will be more deeply enriched by your visit here.

TOURS

During primary stages of restoration, the interior main dwelling will be closed temporarily to the general public. For contributions of $50 or more, the contributor will be conducted on a personal tour of the interior, by appointment only. Please call to ensure that your tour does not collide with restoration work. We regret this necessary inconvenience.

Tours of the exterior grounds and outbuildings are provided on a walk-in basis. Donations suggested.

PHOTOGRAPHS, DRAWINGS & PAINTINGS

PATH encourages you to take all the pictures you want for your own use. However, they may not be sold, published or reproduced without express written permission from **PATH.** We also encourage artists to use their talent, with the same caveat.

(over)

The Actors

MEMBERSHIP CHOICES

★ **for life**

Becoming etched in history..	Charter Member $500	Booth Buff $500	Enthusiast $100	Sponsor $50	Subscriber $15
Tax benefits	●	●	●	●	●
Pathways Journal Monthly	★	★	●	●	●
Advanced invitation to annual events	★	★	●	●	●
complimentary admission to grounds and outbuildings	★	★	●	●	
complimentary admission to main house	★	★	●	●	
your name embossed in donor's book on display in TUDOR HALL	★	●	●		
research use of the JUNIUS BRUTUS BOOTH LIBRARY	★	●	●		
reduced fee for facilities use and priority booking	★	●			
complimentary bed and breakfast	●	●			
your name engraved on bronze plaque permanently displayed in TUDOR HALL	★				
original brick artifact	●				

The Box Office

WHERE TO WRITE

Please complete and return this application to:
PATH, Inc.
Tudor Hall, Tudor Lane
Bel Air, MD 21014

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone _____

Yes, I want to be involved as a member in the following way:

☐ Charter Member $500 (offer ends 12/31/84) ☐ Sponsor $50
☐ Booth Buff $500 ☐ Enthusiast $100 ☐ Subscriber $15
☐ I haven't yet decided. Please contact me personally.

Membership Payments are Tax Deductible.
Please enclose checks payable to: **PATH, Inc.**

The Script

BOOTH CHRONOLOGY

1796 JUNIUS BRUTUS BOOTH is born on May 1 in England.
1802 MARY ANN HOLMES is born on June 27.
1815 JUNIUS marries ADELAIDE DELANNOY on May 8.
1820 JUNIUS meets MARY ANN in the BOW STREET MARKET.
1821 JUNIUS and MARY ANN land at Norfolk, VA on June 30.
1821 JUNIUS BRUTUS BOOTH, JR. is born on Dec. 22 in Charleston, SC
1822 JUNIUS finds retreat at Butterworth's Addition, Harford County.
1823 ROSALIE ANN BOOTH is born on July 5.
1824 JUNIUS leases 150 acres of densely wooded land and moves log house onto the property.
1825 HENRY BYRON BOOTH is born at TUDOR HALL.
1827 MARY ANN BOOTH is born at TUDOR HALL.
1829 FREDERICK BOOTH is born at TUDOR HALL.
1830 Construction of TUDOR HALL dwelling begins.
1831 ELIZABETH BOOTH is born at TUDOR HALL.
1833 MARY ANN (Child), FREDERICK and ELIZABETH die and are buried on the farm at TUDOR HALL.
1833 EDWIN THOMAS BOOTH is born on Nov. 13 at TUDOR HALL.
1835 ASIA BOOTH is born on Nov. 19 at TUDOR HALL.

(over)

Setting the Stage

GIVING TO PATH

The **PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION for TUDOR HALL** depends upon donations. Although gifts of money are necessary and obvious kinds of contributions, there are many other ways you can give to **PATH**, knowing that your gift is essential to the success of historical protection and wise use of **TUDOR HALL**.

THE CHARITABLE DEDUCTION

PATH is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt corporation.- United States tax laws encourage private giving to such organizations by allowing you to deduct the value of a donation from your gross income, thereby reducing your taxable income and perhaps placing you in a lower tax bracket. Thus, the "net cost" of a gift to **PATH** probably substantially less than its face value.

For most kinds of gifts, you can deduct the full value up to 50% of your adjusted gross income in the year of the gift. If your donation exceeds this amount, the remaining value can be carried over and deducted for up to five succeeding years.

Gifts of long-term capital gain property, such as real estate or appreciated securities, can be deducted up to 30% of adjusted gross income in the year of the gift and the five year carry over still applies. There is also an alternative for capital gain property under which you can deduct up to 50% of adjusted gross income; however, you must then reduce the value of the gift by 40% of the gain you would have realized if you had sold the asset.

WAYS OF GIVING

The most usual way of giving to **PATH** is in cash. However, you may want to discuss other kinds of donations with **PATH** and with your tax advisor. These include:

1. long-term appreciated securities,
2. real estate,
3. a life income trust, with the remainder interest going to **PATH**,

(over)

PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION for TUDOR HALL, Inc.

TUDOR HALL, TUDOR LANE
BEL AIR, MARYLAND 21014
Phone (301) 838-2668 or 838-0466

Dear Associate Elect,

We are pleased to announce that you have been elected by our Board of Trustees as a member of the **PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION for TUDOR HALL, INC. — PATH.**

You may now join with many prominent historical and theatrical associates in taking full advantage of all of **PATH's** exceptional cultural and social opportunities at Tudor Hall. The remaining requirement to be completed as an associate of **PATH** is your acceptance of this honor. We have taken the liberty of enclosing an appropriate form in our brochure for that purpose.

Before we explain the specific privileges to which you are entitled as an associate of the Preservation Association for Tudor Hall, let us take a moment to insure that you understand fully your personal importance to **PATH.** Tudor Hall is the Harford County, MD farm and birthplace of Edwin Thomas and John Wilkes Booth and the residence of national significance in this area. Tudor Hall is privileged to be included on the National Register of Historic Places.

The addition of your name on our honor rolls will lend much greater weight than you might imagine to **PATH's** influence with major funding sources — sources we rely on to support vital restoration projects at Tudor Hall. Your membership will also be helping to further **PATH's** activities in preserving and protecting Tudor Hall from speculators or even the wrecker's bulldozer. Less than 10% of all properties that are historically significant are being protected as national landmarks.

Hence, the importance of your election as an associate by the Trustees of the Preservation Association for Tudor Hall. Be assured that you will gain far more from your membership than the satisfying sense of being part of this noble undertaking. Your acceptance and benefits including the following:

SOCIAL EVENTS: You will be invited to join with fellow members at special receptions, garden parties and similar affairs held in support of Tudor Hall activities. Your attendance will be requested at our annual association meeting featuring informal cocktail parties, special preservation awards, and talks by prominent **PATH** supporters. Other events will include Champagne/Buffet and music by candlelight at special holiday and open house receptions at Tudor Hall.

CULTURAL EVENTS: Lectures, Civil War military demonstrations, library, museum, tours.

"MEMBERS ONLY" SAVINGS: On books, pictures, etc. Also, you will receive our monthly journal "Pathways" — our path from history, our path to the future.

We truly believe that the benefit you will value most will be the pride that comes by playing a personal role in the preservation of Tudor Hall for generations yet to come.

We need your acknowledged acceptance of your election as an associate of **PATH,** together with the appropriate tax-deductible contribution. Please see brochure for details.

Very truly yours,

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Preservation Association for Tudor Hall, Inc.

Fort Wayne, IN News-Sentinel Sept. 2, 1985

Tourists enjoy assassin's home

By LARRY ROSENTHAL
Of the Associated Press

BEL AIR, Md. — A sign on the road leading to a secluded gothic revival cottage points the way to the home of Junius Brutus Booth and his son Edwin, a renowned Shakespearean actor. But tourists are usually more interested in Edwin's infamous brother.

Now a preservation group has drawn up ambitious plans to restore the 163-year-old home of presidential assassin John Wilkes Booth, although some would prefer that his name be forgotten.

The local historical society, which originally put the sign up in 1931, didn't think it proper to call attention to the man who took Abraham Lincoln's life. It wanted to focus on the theatrical achievements of the Booth family.

"That's the prejudice that existed then and sometimes exists today," said David Reuwer, executive director of the non-profit Preservation Association for Tudor Hall, during a recent tour of the 8½-acre property in northeast Maryland.

Guests can sleep in John Wilkes Booth's bedroom under a bed-and-breakfast setup run by the preservation group.

Although it's 120 years after the nation's 16th president was shot to death at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C., talk of making a museum-inn of Tudor Hall still stirs indignation among some Marylanders, Reuwer said.

When the Maryland General Assembly was asked last winter to provide $80,000 for the restoration, one lawmaker said the money would be better spent burning it down and compared the idea to building a museum for Lee Harvey Oswald, who killed John F. Kennedy.

Seeking funds elsewhere, the preservation group has applied to the Maryland Historical Trust for a $161,000 restoration grant and a $100,000 low-interest loan to be used for acquisitions, Reuwer said.

The Tudor Hall association hopes one day to expand to five guest rooms, fill the house with period pieces and open a small Lincoln library.

Caretakers Howard and Dorothy Fox, who bought Tudor Hall in 1968, turned it over to the preservation group last year under a contract giving them lifelong tenancy.

Dorothy Fox said they didn't know anything about its past when they first saw the house.

"We were just looking for an old place to restore. We weren't aware of the historical significance at first," she said.

While an addition has been built to the kitchen and a modern-day swimming pool sits behind the property, most of the original home is intact, though in disrepair.

There are the original tin roof, stone springhouse and icehouse. There is the tiny upper-level balcony from which the Booths used to sharpen their oratorical skills.

Also preserved are the lead-framed, diamond-shaped windows from England. Visitors are told to peer closely at one pane, to spot the scratched-in initials of a young John Wilkes Booth.

The Washington Times

'The House of Tragedy' was home to John Wilkes Booth

By Art Slusark
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

CHURCHVILLE, Md. — A single sign is all that alerts motorists to what, as little as 20 years ago, was still known as "The House of Tragedy."

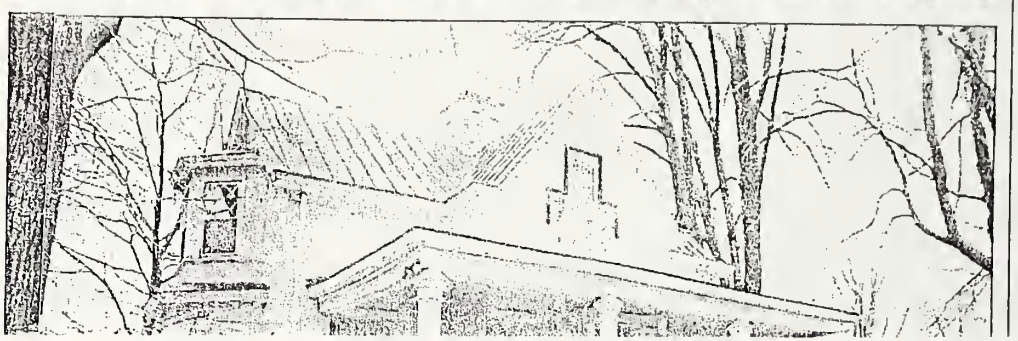
But the sign, erected by the Maryland Historical Society in 1931 at Route 22 and Tudor Lane in central Harford County, doesn't tell the whole story.

It reads: "Tudor Hall. The home of the noted actor Junius Brutus Booth, the elder. Birthplace of his children.

15-year period, Mary Ann bore eight children, including Edwin in 1833 and John Wilkes in 1838.

The acting career of those two flourished at Tudor Hall. From a balcony off of John Wilkes' bedroom, they practiced soliloquies from Shakespeare. Soon, Edwin gave his first public performance, three miles down the road at the courthouse in Bel Air. Later, Junius and John Wilkes would join him on stage there in a production of "Julius Ceasar."

"The Booths owned the house until 1878, but by 1860 they had



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It reads: "Tudor Hall. The home of the noted actor Junius Brutus Booth, the elder. Birthplace of his children. His son, Edwin Booth, was born here Nov. 13, 1833."

A quick right onto Tudor Lane leads into a subdivision of 12 homes. On either side of the road sit immaculate four-bedroom ranchers and two-story houses.

At the end of the road is the first indication of what lies ahead: two stone posts, the anchors of a gate a previous owner used to keep the curiosity seekers out.

The gate, perhaps symbolically, is no longer there.

Tudor Hall is no longer under wraps, and neither is its legacy. It is also the birthplace of one of Maryland's most infamous sons — John Wilkes Booth, the man who assassinated President Abraham Lincoln.

And, almost 120 years to the day after Mr. Lincoln was assassinated in Ford's Theater, Tudor Hall is in the news again.

A bill that would have granted a preservation association $50,000 in matching funds toward the renovation of the Booth home was defeated in the Maryland legislature Monday evening. Opposition came from those who compared it to "spending money renovating Lee Harvey Oswald's house."

"I can't understand why people can't look past the assassination aspect," said Ann C. Phillips, secretary and archivist for the Preservation Association of Tudor Hall. "Tudor Hall is important theatrically and architecturally, as well as historically. It's a period house."

• • •

On May 8, 1815, Junius Booth married Adelaine Delannoy in England. Five years later, he met Mary Ann Holmes walking out of an English theater. He was so infatuated by her, or so the story goes, he left his family and acting career behind and set sail with her for America.

John Wilkes Booth

In 1824, the Booths — who weren't married until 1851, a year before his death — and their first son settled in Harford County, buying 150 densely wooded acres. Junius had a log home moved to the property, quite a feat in that era, where the family lived until Tudor Hall was constructed.

"There are three commonly conjectured reasons why Junius settled here," said David P. Reuwer, a Bel Air lawyer and president of the nationwide preservation group formed to restore the mansion. "The first one says he simply loved farming, and this place had good soil.

"The second says he wanted a central location for his acting assignments. The circuit ran from Charleston, S.C., to Boston, and this place was not too far from the old post road, Route 7.

"The third says he wanted to hide his family. He sought a retreat. He was an actor, always in the public eye, and needed a place to get away from that. Maybe more importantly, he needed a place to hide his family, since he already had another family over in England."

Whatever the reason, Tudor Hall proved to be a productive site. In a 15-year period, Mary Ann bore eight children, including Edwin in 1833 and John Wilkes in 1838.

The acting career of those two flourished at Tudor Hall. From a balcony off of John Wilkes' bedroom, they practiced soliloquies from Shakespeare. Soon, Edwin gave his first public performance, three miles down the road at the courthouse in Bel Air. Later, Junius and John Wilkes would join him on stage there in a production of "Julius Caesar."

"The Booths owned the house until 1878, but by 1860 they had rented the place," Mr. Reuwer said. "On the night Lincoln was assassinated, Union troops surrounded the house and ransacked the log cabin — which was still there — where the Booths kept some theatrical costumes."

• • •

Tudor Hall is a 1½-story, 12-room Gothic Revival cottage. It's made of brick, painted white on the outside and plastered over on the inside. It's peaked on all four sides, providing a pleasing view from all angles.

A central fireplace with a hearth on each side dominates the living room. The library, which already houses one of the finest collections of Civil War literature in the East, is to the left. The kitchen and dining room, connected to the main house earlier this century, are at the rear.

Upstairs, there's a sitting room, "indoor outhouse" and four bedrooms, one occupied by Dorothy and Harold Fox, the site managers. Another houses a 200-year-old rope bed in the John Wilkes' bedroom.

"He told his sister he liked this room because he didn't like to see the sun set," said Mrs. Fox, pointing out of the window, consisting of a myriad of individually leaded diamond-shaped panels, at the eastern sky. All of the windows in the house are of similar design.

• • •

Back in 1968, when the Foxes were looking to leave the Baltimore City east lane, they started asking around for a farmhouse in need of restoration.

"We asked the police chief up here, and he said, 'How about the old Booth place?' It could have been Booth Jones for all we knew," Mrs. Fox said.

Tudor Hall had been virtually abandoned for 20 years. Water that had poured through leaks in the original green tin roof had caused monstrous cracks in the plaster.

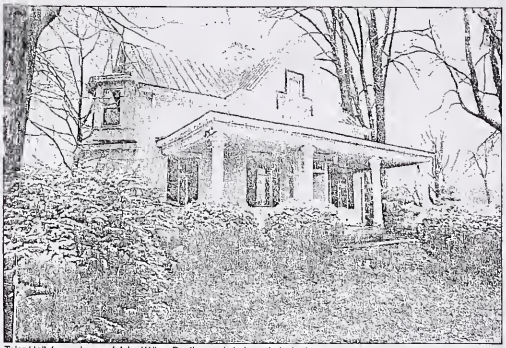
"But, structurally, it was sound," said Mr. Fox, a retired contractor. "It was in need of repair, but sound."

It's still in need of some cosmetic repair, but not major surgery. "Our goal is to restore it using as much of the original house as possible," he said.

Last July, the Preservation Association bought the house from the Foxes and granted them a lifetime tenancy as site managers. "We just love people," Mrs. Fox explained. "We would meet so many that would just wander back here we figured we might as well organize it."

Visitors already can tour the grounds of the home on weekends, and in mid-May the interior will be open to the public.

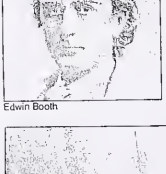
Beginning this summer, Tudor Hall will offer bed and breakfast lodging, with the revenue being used for renovation. House tours, wedding receptions and a fall and Christmas festival also are planned.



Tudor Hall, former home of John Wilkes Booth, now is being refurbished as a museum.

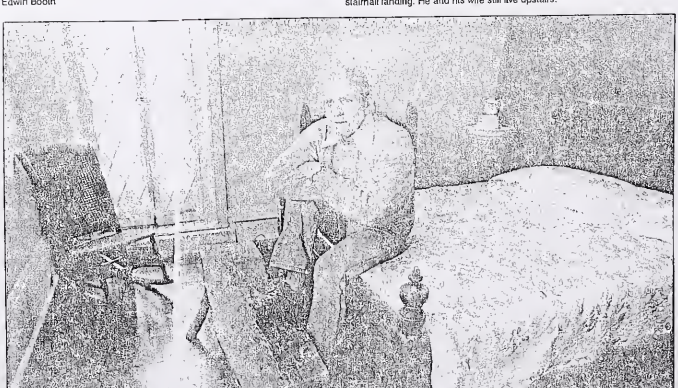
Howard Fox, owner of the Booth house, dusts off an antique clock on the stairhall landing. He and his wife still live upstairs.

Photos
by Kevin T. Gilbert
The Washington Times



Edwin Booth

A poster offering a reward is among the memorabilia in the library.



Mr. Fox sits in the bedroom in which John Wilkes Booth grew up. The window faces east so the young actor would not see the sunset.